

Zachary Lambert (top) eats rice in the poorest group. In the middle group, Elizabeth Hall and Professor Frederick Greene (below) eat from a buffet line. (Photos courtesy of Stembel)

Awareness, Education, Action for Hunger and Homelessness Week

By Katherine Stembel, *Co-Editor-In-Chief*

According to the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness Indiana Student Public Interest Research Group, more than 606,000 people experience hunger each year in Indiana, and 18,000 people find themselves homeless each night.

Saint Joseph's College Campus Ministry strives to address problems such as these in Indiana, as well as in the global community.

During National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, held November 12-18 and sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, SJC participated in several activities that created awareness, promoted education, and facilitated action.

The week of recognition began with "One Night Without a Home," an event sponsored by the SJC Volunteer Corps, on Sunday, November 12 from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. Student participants had planned to spend the night outdoors on the College's Intramural Field, but the frigid temperatures caused them to instead join together in the Campus Ministry Office for fellowship and discussions about homelessness.

The second event of the week included a "Hunger Feast," held on Tuesday, November 14 from

6-7:30 p.m. in the Halleck Student Center Ballroom. SJC faculty, staff, and students were invited to the event which included an educational movie that put hunger awareness into perspective.

As they entered the Ballroom, participants were randomly given a colored sticker that designated which economic level they were in.

"One in three children go to bed hungry every night, and we wanted to open people's eyes."

~Melissa Cooper

Those attending were then grouped, with the majority of people seated on the floor, forced to divide a limited amount of rice and water among themselves. They ate out of bowls with no utensils.

The smaller, second group was allowed to sit in folding chairs and dip out their own simple meal from a buffet line, while the third group, containing just three people, sat at a lavish table and was served several courses with plenty of food left over.

The third group felt guilt, visually confronted with the needy, and shared platefuls of their food with the "poor" groups.

The evening's goal was to actualize the idea of going hungry and allow students, faculty, and

staff to put themselves in the shoes of people who have no other alternative.

"One in three children go to bed hungry every night, and we wanted to open people's eyes to what's going on around the world and create an overall understanding of the real life experience," said junior Biology major Melissa Cooper.

The week culminated with the 16th annual Covenant House International Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth on Thursday, November 16.

The vigil, entitled "Renewing the Covenant," was designed to call attention to the problems facing at-risk children and teenagers. The event took place in the Saint Joseph's Chapel at 4:30 p.m.

"'One Night Without a Home,' 'Hunger Feast,' and the Covenant House Vigil were ways to raise awareness, educate, and hopefully instill within students the desire to do something, to move them to action," said Campus Minister Ary Nelson.

"We have been charged by Jesus to care for the least of these," she continued. "First, feed the hungry; then, look at the underlying issues, at the culture and society and what is in place that needs to be changed."

For more information about Campus Ministry's upcoming events, contact Nelson at (219) 866-6352.

Jazz & Improv Night To be Held Dec. 8

By Katherine Stembel, *Publications and Media Relations Intern*

Treat yourself to a holiday program in the spirit of the television specials of yore, featuring music and comedy, on Friday, December 8 at 7 p.m. in the Arts and Science Building Theatre.

SJC students, faculty, and staff, as well members of the local community, are invited to attend the second annual Jazz and Improv Night. Admission is free of charge, but donations of canned goods will be accepted for the Rensselaer Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

Co-sponsored by the Columbian Players' Improv Troupe, "Production Under Construction," and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, the pairing will highlight the collegiality between the departments and among students.



Jason Keller performs at an improv show last year. (Photo courtesy of Stembel)

The union between humor and music "seemed like a natural thing to do," according to Assistant Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts John Rahe, who serves as the faculty sponsor of the improv troupe. "If you remember those old Christmas specials with the King family or the Williams brothers, they always had comedy and singing. It also gives the

players and singers a venue for performance and has a nice public service component by having a donation of canned goods for the food bank."

Alternating between two sessions of improvisational comedy, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble plans to present musical selections including "White Christmas," "Have Yourself a Merry Christmas," and "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch." The program will end with an audience sing-along of holiday carols.

"Our presence [alongside 'Production Under Construction'] makes the Improv show more like the old TV specials," said Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choirs Todd Samra. "It will be an entertaining event in a relaxed environment."

GCS Present Wrap for Kids

By Jennifer Ruff, *Staff Writer*

On Monday, November 27, the Gallagher Charitable Society joined together on the second floor of Halleck Student Center to wrap presents for children in need.



GCS members gathered to wrap gifts Nov. 27. (Photo courtesy of Ruff)

GCS is a group that originally consisted of all Gallagher members. Their aim is to aid those who need help in the community.

During the holidays, one of their key programs is collecting and wrapping toys for needy children. The presents were sorted into gender and age groups. From there the GCS split up to conquer the task of wrapping over 200 presents.

Everyone seemed in good spirits and one could tell they realized the impact they were making and took great pride in it. Once wrapped, the presents were ready to be given to the children.

On Saturday, December 2 the society held the Christmas party. Children were able to make crafts and welcome the holiday season.

“Rainmakers” Win World Series of Pop Culture

By Mike Koscielny, Staff Writer

Finish the lyric (from *AquaTeen Hunger Force*): “Shake-zula, the mic rulah the old schoolah. You wanna trip, I’ll bring it to ya. Frylock and I’m on top, rock you like a cop. Meatwad you’re up next with your knock-knock. Meatwad make the money see, ____.”

Finish the lyric (from *Friends*): “So, no one told you life was gonna be this way. Your job’s a joke, ____.”

November 14 brought about the importance of useless pop culture knowledge, like the questions above that appeared in the final round of the competition, as the Saint Joseph’s College tutoring program held their World Series of Pop Culture competition, based on the popular Vh1 show of the same name, in Rev. Charles Banet, C.P.P.S. Core Education Center.

Eight teams of three competed for the grand prize of three iPod Nanos. The South Side Irish, The Big Green, Geeks to the Rescue, The Holly Rollers, Cash Money, The Frontline, The Rainmakers, and 3-titude competed, and event coordinator and senior Public Relations major Ricardo Ayala played host for the evening’s festivities.

Team Frontline, comprised of three juniors, Psychology major



Stephanie James, Biology major Abbey Barker, and Business major Scott Bertagnolli, were runners-up overall in the competition while The Rainmakers, senior Biology Chemistry major Jenny Diaz and two of her friends, Gina Frattini and Dan Maffco, won.

“Jenny is one of our best friends and we love pop culture,” Maffco said when asked what brought him to SJC for the competition.

The game was played in four rounds. In the first three, four teams competed in a battle-royale with buzzers, and the two winners from each moved on. The final round of the competition ran like the show, with the single-elimination of players from each team after a series of questions from a specific category.

“We read *Us* and *People*,” Maffco said. “And we kind of quizzed each other over stuff on the way to SJC,” Frattini added.

Author and Professor Scott Russell Sanders Visits SJC, Courtesy of Measure

By Jessica Lamping, Staff Writer

On November 29 *Measure* welcomed author and Indiana University Professor Scott Russell Sanders.

Sanders spoke casually on writing and his personal experiences, and then gave a formal reading from his newest book, *A Private History of Awe*, which is a memoir.

Like most authors, Sanders combined the most influential experiences in his life to create his memoir. During his discussion he revealed stories that affected him during his life.

One of the most memorable was the story comparing his mother to his granddaughter.

His mother was suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, and he began to notice how her mind was going each time he visited her. He said that right after visiting his mother, he would go baby-sit his granddaughter.

He noticed how his granddaughter was picking up the skills and abilities that his mother was losing.

This idea of memory really struck Sanders in a very personal way.

He said that he wrote about the experiences that shaped his character and conscience because he watched how the mind could go. He learned from his



Scott Russell Sanders (Photos courtesy of Lamping)

experiences with Alzheimer’s that memory is very fragile.

Sanders was also affected by war his whole life. He grew up near an army weapons factory and graduated during the Vietnam

War. His father had worked in a bomb factory during World War II, and when Sanders learned about nuclear weapons he was very disturbed.

Growing up with the idea of war constantly around him shaped his outlook on such conflict.

When he moved to England to attain his Ph.D., he started an anti-war group. They had discussions at his apartment, and he and other group members were constantly being followed (by members of this government).

He applied to the draft board to be known as a conscientious objector because his feelings against war were so strong. He was eventually deemed unfit for the army.

The pieces Sanders read from his book further revealed his view on war.

He wrote about how it sickened him, and how it affected him when he was younger. He said that many things in his life influenced him, and that he considered many different things when writing his memoir.

However, it was obvious that his experience with war and the government had influenced him far more than any of the other events in his life.

To learn more, visit www.scottrussellsanders.com.

Thoughts from A-Broad By Elizabeth Genova



„Guten Tag,“ Saint Joseph’s College!

I have been studying for the past three months in Germany and Austria (*Not* Australia, although you would be surprised how many *G’day mates...shrimp on the barbi* jokes I heard when I told people where I was studying!) and I am writing to tell you about some cultural differences that really set Americans apart from everyone in Europe.

And trust me, if you spend one month in Austria, you will definitely discover Americanisms about yourself that you never knew you had-in addition to encountering many false misconceptions that you might have to defend for the rest of your life to Europeans...So here it comes!

- Top five things you might not know about Europeans**
- 1) Everyone under the age of 30 can speak at least three languages (it is mandatory to learn English as well as another language starting at the age of 10).
 - 2) Politics is a serious issue concerning both students and adults. (In Austria, there is a rise in popularity of a political party with the slogan ‘Foreigners Out!’ but most students come to Austria from foreign countries, myself included).
 - 3) Most Europeans either love or hate the United States, and will let you know why.
 - 4) American Pop Culture is very popular. Most hits from the 1980s and 1990s are covered and replayed on a constant radio loop. Phil Collins and Sting are staples for the radio.
 - 5) They know more about the American government than 90% of Americans. Guaranteed.

Were any of the above a bit shocking? I have also encountered some stereotypes about Americans that you might not have known.

- Top five things you might not know about Americans (according to Europeans):**
- 1) Americans only speak English, and only want to speak English.
 - 2) They are unnecessarily loud, and half the time drunk (think of high school and college travelling students, which provide the most exposure of the United States to European Nations).
 - 3) They all support President Bush and every policy of the United States government.
 - 4) They have no concept of world geography.
 - 5) They are wasteful and unconcerned with pressing environmental issues.

If my lists have offended anyone, I would like to say that these are confirmed opinions of many Germans, Austrians, Canadians, Spaniard, Italians, Japanese, Koreans, etc., with whom I have come into contact.

The real question is, which of these stereotypes, as Americans, do we find correct or false, and what do we do to change these perceptions?

As to whether most Americans only speak English, sadly that is a truth which has handicapped Americans in the global scene. Of course, almost everyone speaks the international language of English, but business transactions and even travelling go so much smoother when the effort is made to learn even simple phrases of that country like “please, thank you, and excuse me.” Europeans have the advantage of mandatory English classes from a young age, but the U.S.A. does not follow this practice. I would strongly encourage research on a country before you travel there; many people are impressed with the effort.

Many Americans can be loud (I know I am)! Maybe because we treasure our personal space and need to speak louder in order to hear one another, or we could be slightly deaf. Regardless, volume in Europe will make you stick out like a sore thumb on a European streetcar (in addition to hoodies and white socks).

As for government, I have developed a little national pride here in Austria, even if I do not support certain policies and leaders. After all, if you do not

support your country, foreigners will respect it even less.

Europeans disagree with some of their national policies, and knowledge of their internal differences will help them to understand the U.S.A.’s situations a little better. Just do not throw around the words “Nazis” and “Hitler” in German-speaking countries. It is still a very sensitive topic, and the wrong comments can even get you arrested.

And for #4 on the list, “Do Americans know world geography?” I will pose the same question I was once asked here: Where are the Himalayan Mountains located?

Finally, are we environmentally conscious? Europe is unbelievably so. I even have recycling duties in my dorm that are allocated weekly to students. Everything is recycled, and even turned into fashionable handbags.

As students, we have a great advantage and responsibility to ourselves and our future as U.S. citizens. How will we redeem ourselves in the eyes of the world and function in the global scene cooperatively? The best advice I have been given is to always be conscious of the consequences of our actions and behaviour.

Whether we like it our not, we are watched under a microscope when we travel or come into contact with other countries. We should never be ashamed of our country, but rather allow room for positive changes.

Bis dann!

SJC Student Association Breaks Lines of Communication with Students, Follows No Rules

Melinda Maile, Letter to the Editor

Each semester, SJC students pay an \$80 Student Association (SA) fee. This mandatory fee is used to improve the general welfare of SJC, mainly through funding various clubs and their respective activities on campus. Every single student of Saint Joe's is a member of SA, but most students do not realize this. Each fall, students elect representatives from their dorms (Day Students are also represented) to serve on the Student Senate, which serves as the voice of all SJC students and is the responsible party to disburse SA fees.

This semester, Student Senate was allotted \$61, 535.00, providing funding for 41 different clubs and dorms on campus. Recently, there has been controversy on how this money is distributed fairly to various clubs. Sean Belt's article on Oct. 12 focused only on one aspect of how funds should be distributed and spent (spending SA funds off of campus, in particular, to non-profit organizations). Criminal Justice Club is not the only club that has questioned what stipulations and qualifications clubs and dorms should meet to receive requested funding. Psi Chi, Cup of Joe's, Measure, Bennett Hall, Merlini Hall, Gallagher Charitable Society, and Columbian Players all expressed concerns on budget allotments in a Senate meeting earlier this semester. As a result of unsatisfied clubs and numerous concerns expressed in Senate meetings, the SA Executive Board and a select group of Senate members made an even more controversial Budget Guidelines document. After many changes to the initial document and over 3 hours of discussion at last week's Senate meeting, these guidelines were passed to go into effect starting with next semester's budget.

So, why should YOU care? For most students, SA, its policies, and its politics are of minimal concern. Students are supposed to elect representatives who will do just that- represent them, make educated decisions on student policies, and serve as an advocate for the section of the SJC student body they represent. That is easier said than done, which is exactly why I am writing this article. Student Association money, contradictory to what the Student Executive

Board wrote in "Reply to Sean Belt's Letter", IS YOUR MONEY. It is every SJC student's money, and how it is being spent is your business! This most recent Budget Guideline Proposal was a great attempt at making the distribution and spending of your money more accountable, but I refuse to support it because of the way it was handled both in its making and in its passing at last week's SA meeting.

The Student Executive Board and some Senate members are not abiding by the SA Constitution, on multiple levels. I have a list of at least 18 Constitution violations, parliamentary procedure in meetings (Robert's Rules of Order) are being loosely followed at best, SA Committees are not doing their jobs, and students' voices to express these concerns are flat out rejected by the Student Executive Board. Perhaps my insistence to follow our constitution regardless of how small the action or vote may seem extreme, meticulous, or even unnecessary. Pardon me for wanting to ensure my \$160/yr is going toward something worthwhile. After all, I know I could easily put that \$160 toward something else, as I am sure every other college student could. Our Constitution is the essential foundation of Student Senate, much like the U.S. Constitution is that of our entire country. Do our national representatives choose what agenda items they want to create according to the U.S. Constitution, with other items created as they please? No.

Our Constitution exists for the protection of all SJC students, and for the entire well being of the college. It defines powers and duties of our representatives, it includes checks and balances to ensure that no one part of our Student Senate rules over another, and its contents are meant to provide order and productivity in the Student Senate. Every student should have access to the SA Constitution. It is already posted online, but what is available is from 2000, not the current and very different 2005 Constitution.

As a club president, I am a non-voting member of Senate that has speaking privileges. For last week's SA meeting, I was denied by the Student Executive Board to be added to the agenda. I wanted to address the Senate on

the Budget Proposal issue, and suggest alternatives to their guidelines. Per Constitution rules, the SA President is to remain **strictly impartial** on all issues. The "Reply to Sean Belt's Letter" was hardly impartial, and in fact, much more defensive on the current SA President's part (Maggie Broderick). The Budget Guideline was passed, even though the entire document was made against SA Constitution procedures. Two amendments to the Constitution were passed in Senate, even though I made it clear to voting members that neither amendment went through the proper "check and balance" system that our Constitution requires. You might have already cast a vote for the new SA Executive Board Officers, who were all up for re-election. Did you wonder why the ballot did not have many names to choose from for each position (in some cases, the person ran unopposed)? The Elections Committee of Senate is supposed to make campus-wide announcements encouraging people to run, and inform them how to get on the ballot. Did you see the signs and hear the announcements? Oh yeah, there weren't any except for the brief mention of elections in a SA Senate meeting, where only about 40 of the 1,000 SJC students attend. Even if you were self-motivated and tracked down a ballot form in Dean Keller's office, an attached paper on the form might have informed you that you were ineligible to run for office. You should know that those "eligibility rules" were made by an anonymous person, who never even mentioned them in any SA meeting, let alone abided by the Constitution and made it pass Senate by a 2/3 majority vote in order to apply! These elections are done now-but should they be considered valid? Should anything unconstitutional that is passed in Senate be considered valid? I say definitely not.

Do you enjoy attending on campus events? Can you think of things to spend \$160 on? Are you interested in being a student leader and representing SJC as a SA member but did not know how to get involved? Do you think the U.S. Constitution is a meaningful and worthwhile document for our country? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should be concerned about current procedures in our own student government, SA. I urge YOU to speak up! I find it hard to believe that myself and one other student are the only 2 people out of 1,000 students that cares where our money is going, what rules are being set for all SJC students, and how those rules are being made.

Anyone who would like documentation and specific references to Constitution violations, or proof of any other events mentioned in this article, I encourage you to contact me (mmj5004@saintjoe.edu). All contents of this article are true to the best of my knowledge.

Milton Friedman--In Memorium

By Michael Schmitt, Staff Writer

To those who actually read my articles instead of using them as toilet paper, I would like to say thank you since this may be my last article for the newspaper. This article will be different then my past articles which were about political polarization or the School of America. Rather it is about Milton Friedman who recently passed away on the Sixteenth of November. He contributed to macroeconomics, microeconomics, economic history and statistics. He also was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1976. He wrote *Capitalism and Freedom*, where he advocated minimizing the role of government to promote political and social freedoms. He also had a television series called *Free to Choose*, where he explained how the free market works and how the principals of the free market can solve political and social problems. The economical theory he proposed helped shape how both American conservatives and libertarians look at governmental involvement in the economy and had a major impact influence in both the Reagan and Nixon presidencies. He was also in

favor of school vouchers so that both private and public could compete for public school money. He proposed a negative income tax where a flat tax would be around twenty-five percent. Taxpayers would be given ten thousand dollars from the government so a individual making twenty thousand a year would end up paying only five thousand dollars. So in regards to Milton Friedman and the issues he talked about, I leave you with these questions: What is the role of the government in the economy and was Milton right with the more government involves itself with the economy, the more freedom it takes away? The Democrats have stated that one of their goals for the 110th Congress is to raise the minimum wage. If they do this does it take away our freedom or does it increase it? Another question that should be asked is 'is the minimum wage the federal government's business?' Should we replace the income tax and if so with what type of new tax system? Some other ideas for a new tax system are the national sales tax or a flat tax. Here's to hoping we get it done the Friedman way.

Houlding On

BJ Houlding, Opinion Editor

Wow, another semester gone. That sure went fast. Here we are, already at the last issue of the *Observer* for the year. So, to tide you over until we meet again in the big '07, here's a list of things I'm excited for in the New Year. 1. Getting rid of those pesky seniors. Seriously. I'm ready to be on top. I mean, I'll miss them and all, but sheesh they can be overbearing. I'm looking at you Joe Larson. 2. *Spiderman 3*. We have been waiting forever for this movie. I had just graduated high school when Spidey was fighting Doc Oc. Still, the trailer makes it look worth the wait. Other big movie releases include the final chapter of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, another installment of *Harry Potter*, *National Treasure 2*, *Ocean's 13*, *Beowulf*, *Simpsons Movie*, and a third *Shrek*. 3. Soriano on the Cubs. Next year is here, anybody? 4. Ban Ki-moon replacing Kofi Annan as the UN Secretary-General. 'Bout time. (Hey, something needed to be educational.) 5. The final *Harry Potter* book is to be released. Who else is hanging on pins and needles? 6. SJC will present both *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Chicago*. 7. Megaman is set to be invented. Good luck in Stockholm, Dr. Light. 8. Microsoft Vista will debut. This could either make or break Microsoft for years to come. I'm not sure I'll be changing anytime soon.

There ya have it, a short list of cool things to look forward to. In the meantime, good luck on your finals, have a great Christmas, and be sure to attend the Improv & Jazz Singers Christmas Show 7:30 on December 8 in the Theater. BJ out!

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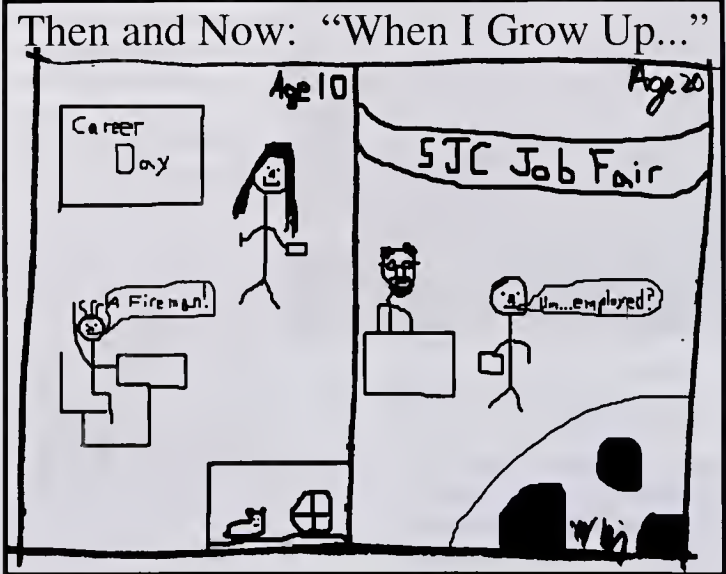
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Teresa’s Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



In addition to being the modern goddess of the harp, Newsom is also the tamer of the raven, wielder of the hand scythe, and shower of the cleavage. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.dragcity.com/catalog/records/dc303.html>)

Harping Away at Life

Classically-trained harpist Joanna Newsom had aspirations at an early age to be a composer. These ambitions have been met with two full-length albums. Anyone who questioned her talent concerning those works will have their doubts erased upon listening to *Ys*. Newsom is bolder, more honest, and yet manages to still be difficult to read. She makes the listener work. She is a poet in the truest form. Newsome speaks in allegories and uses analogies. Her word choice makes it clear that she has often frequented a dictionary to perfect her lyrics. Her voice has matured but still shrieks and shrills. The harp is as genius as ever, and it is in this mixture that Newsom delivers a tapestry of beauty with different textures, colors, and images.

Ys, which is pronounced “ees,” takes its name from a mythical sunken city. The city and her album have many of the same themes running through them. Newsome tells some stories on her album like a fable while shrouding others in allegory. She manages to do this beautifully. How could she not? A fifty-five minute album with only five songs should easily give her enough time to tell her tales, and she utilizes every moment of it. Newsom has been quoted as saying that this album is about one whole year in her life. In that context, it makes sense to not interrupt the stories or cut them up.

One of the stories she tells is the fable-like “Monkey and Bear.” The characters provided in the title safely live together on a farm until one convinces the other that they need to be freed. The story quickly turns into the Monkey gaining the upper hand. He makes the bear humiliate himself by dancing for children

so the two of them can “pay the bills.” Monkey pushes and pushes till Bear’s self-worth is diminished and Monkey is left alone. Sounds pretty reminiscent of what could be a modern day story.

“Only Skin” is the longest and most beautiful track on the album. Newsom gets personal with her soul searching in the sense that she questions, explores, and delves into many nuances of herself and how she interacts with men. Her poetic lines once again make the listener work to unravel their meanings. A great example of Newsom’s artistry is this passage: “I have got some business out at the edge of town / Candy weighing both of my pockets down / ‘Till I can hardly stay afloat, from the weight of them / (and knowing how the common-folk condemn, / What it is I do, to you, to keep you warm. / Being a woman, being a woman)” The juvenile image of candy intertwined with the adult imagery of sex brings the listener to a place where they can feel that Newsom is at war with the concept of her sexuality.

Newsom’s growth not only exists in the maturity of subject matter, but also in her orchestration. This album has a more “classical” feel in the sense that it has a free range and is not limited by following a pattern. *Ys*’ predecessor, *The Milk-Eyed Mender*, tended to follow a more structured pop/rock pattern of chorus, verse, chorus. This time around, Newsom crafts her music sans predictability. The battle between the classically trained artist and an attempt at a pop artist is non existent on this attempt. The execution of her performances provides clear evidence that she is sure of the direction she wishes to go.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:
Originality: 9.5
Lyrics: 9.5
Music: 9.5
Cover Art: 9.5
Total: 9.5/10

Why the World Doesn’t Need

By Gabriele Nichols, *Superman Returns*
Staff Writer

As evidenced by years of changing scripts, directors, and production dates, creating a movie around Superman is not an easy task. For one, Superman is an American icon, a character so embedded in the national conscience that any major changes are almost blasphemous. Second, the basic nature of Superman places filmmakers in a difficult situation when forming a compelling story. How do you get an audience to worry or care about a man who is nigh-invincible?

Director Bryan Singer, who helmed the first two *X-Men* films, attempts to resolve these difficulties by looking to the past. Singer creates *Superman Returns* as an elaborate homage to the classic Richard Donner *Superman* movies, while adding certain messianic elements in an attempt to modernize the character. The plot also uses the fundamental Superman nemeses, Lex Luthor and kryptonite, the only substance that can kill Superman. Luthor has gained freedom from prison and a vast fortune through an affair with an incredibly wealthy, ailing woman. He uses this fortune to steal crystals that will grow into a new continent laced with kryptonite, which will kill billions, destroy the United States, and eliminate Superman’s interference.

One of the main problems with the movie is that a two sentence summary essentially gives away every important detail of the movie’s plot. The story, plot holes and all, can be reduced



No one could be sure of exactly when Superman activated his X-ray vision, but a good clue was when he put his hand suspiciously deep in his pocket. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.fresh99.com/images/supermanreturns/superman-returns-kate-boswo.jpg>)

to two and a half hours Superman versus a giant rock. While there are other elements to the story, most of them deal with Superman’s return to Earth and the reaction of the public, especially that of the now engaged Lois Lane. These plot points are jumbled, awkward, and often creepy, as Superman misuses his powers to spy like a voyeur upon Lane at home and at work. Not to mention Lane’s child, that may or may not be Superman’s, providing another movie kid that either seems creepy or annoying, depending on the scene.

Out of all the actors, only Kevin Spacey as Lex Luthor manages to be convincing, even if the story attempts to undercut Luthor with bad humor. In fact, when he’s not boasting about killing billions, Luthor is the most relatable character in the movie. Brandon Routh is playing Christopher Reeve playing Superman, and thus brings little

presence or personality. Kate Bosworth is a pitiful Lois Lane, with even less personality than Routh. James Marsden is left to play Lane’s neglected fiancée, when he probably would have made a much more interesting Superman.

Fans of Superman or the original films will like this movie more than most because it immerses itself in nostalgia. However, nostalgia combined with badly connected, albeit spectacular, action sequences does not make a great movie. Franchise rebirths like *Batman Begins* and *Casino Royale* have succeeded because of their willingness to break away and create something fresh. If those who love Superman want to watch the Christopher Reeves Superman, they can get those films on DVD. What Superman needs now is a true fresh start with an actor willing to make the character his own.

2 out of 5 stars

Rudyard Kipling Explains it All, Fools Dumb Children

By Elizabeth Bessette, *Staff Writer*

Many of us know the story of how the camel got his hump, but how many of us know the story of how the whale got his throat or how the elephant got his trunk? These stories come from a quirky children’s book by Rudyard Kipling called *Just So Stories*. Kipling takes things we take for granted and puts a folk spin on them. The book includes many stories like “The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo,” “How the First Letter was Written,” and “How the Alphabet was Made.”

Each story explains how an event happened in the past. In the story “How the Alphabet was Made,” a young girl goes spear fishing with her father. The two of them had a misunderstanding in the previous chapter, and they begin to develop a symbol system to represent sounds so as not to have



Although Kipling was well-respected as an author, he was better known as the undisputed record holder for the world’s bushiest eyebrows. (Photo courtesy of http://www.blogthetalk.com/uploaded_images/387px-Rudyard_Kipling-777388.jpg)

the same sort of misunderstanding again. The “A” looks similar to a carp’s mouth because that is what you look like

when saying it, and the “Y” is the carp’s tail. They use this method to create the rest of the alphabet. They begin to write them down on pieces of bone and string them together on a necklace. At some point they lose the “P” and the “Q,” and Kipling writes that this is why we have the saying, “Mind your P’s and Q’s.”

The true charm in this book is that Kipling actually wrote it for his daughter, Josephine. She is mentioned throughout the book by the moniker “Best Beloved.” It is endearing that each story is in a format that resembles a bedtime story, and it seems, in essence, that Kipling read them to his child. The book is designed for being read aloud. The way the text flows and is simplified resembles normal speaking patterns, and makes this book a charming read.

Surviving this Hellish Winter Wonderland

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

Indiana is one of the many states unfortunate enough to experience between four and six seasons each year, depending on if you count Ramadan and Yom Kippur. This area is about to enter another one of those seasons, and the signs of it are everywhere: the temperature is dropping, birds are migrating, and frozen hobo corpses are turning up way more often than usual. Winter technically doesn't start until December 22, but then again dog hunting season technically doesn't ever start. The cocker spaniel head mounted on my wall proves some seasons begin earlier than expected. Contrary to common belief, surviving the winter doesn't have to be a completely miserable experience, although anyone who says it's their favorite season is either a liar or a yeti. Avoid making the following mistakes and the frigid hell that is December, January, and February can become a frigid hell with a slightly reduced probability of suicide, statistically speaking.

The gravest mistake people make in the winter is failing to understand the origin of the season. Many cultures have stories to explain the existence of winter, and nearly all of those stories are unfit to print here due to anti-obscenity laws and an outstanding restraining order placed on behalf of Frosty the Snowman. His adventures in public indecency will have to go mercifully unexposed for now. Other stories about the origin of winter are much less secretive. Christians believe God gets tired of the earth every once in a while, so he tries to freeze everyone to death in a horrific fit of divine PMS. Humans have learned to survive by hiding in massive underground caverns stockpiled with Twinkies and all forms of canned land mammals. Each spring, God says he's sorry, but mankind destroys him anyway by firing a torpedo down his vent shaft – or maybe that's the Death Star. Either way, Luke Skywalker is a jerk. To modern audiences, this explanation seems ludicrous because science has already proven the true cause for winter: the sun shuts off for three or four months of the year. That's why it gets dark so early. That's also why your parents don't love you anymore.

This lack of daylight leads to a second mistake people commonly make in the winter: using the darkness as an excuse for inactivity. There are plenty of things to do when the sun shuts off, and all of those things happen to be either a crime or a type of sandwich-enhancer. Armed robbery, kidnapping, and horseradish are all fun, healthy ways to spend an evening – except for the horseradish, which has been linked to high cholesterol. Darkness can also help with activities that are crimes only in certain states, such as prostitution and stealing medication from the elderly. If you want to start a brothel, move to Nevada, but if you want



God is love, unless you happen to live on Alderaan. (Photo courtesy of <http://sajonzinger.tripod.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderpictures/deathstar.jpg>)

unlimited access to some old guy's Viagra, head to Vermont. Refraining from a vigorous wintertime lifestyle of crime and horseradish consumption could lead to unintended consequences, like weight gain and bland hotdogs – the two primary causes for suicide among middle-aged men and bears with poor self-esteem.

Yet another wintertime mistake people make is adjusting their driving speed in response to adverse weather conditions. Ice is designed to make you get to wherever you're going faster by eliminating friction, providing motorists with the perfect opportunity to commute to work at hundreds of miles an hour. Besides, if you do lose control, there are plenty of obstacles that will safely stop your car, like soft, cushiony snow banks and fat kids waiting for the bus. The current childhood obesity epidemic has led to a dramatic reduction in driver injuries and a dramatic rise in pedestrian fatalities. The whole situation is guilt-free because if those chubby kids really wanted to live, they would've adopted a lifestyle of crime and horseradish consumption in order to become smaller targets. Another weather condition that warrants rapid vehicular acceleration is a blizzard, which helps motorists by eliminating the numerous distractions caused by forward visibility. As soon as you can no longer see other drivers, potential road hazards, or the road itself, all you're left with is a vast expanse of whiteness through which you're guaranteed to set records, either for speed or for largest non-nuclear explosion ever produced by a land-based vehicle. Next time you decide to accidentally ram your car into a major oil refinery, unpack the C-4 from your trunk first.

All these driving tips are useless if you freeze to death before you make it to your car. That's why it's important to avoid another common wintertime mistake: relying on factory-produced clothing. Neanderthals

made their own cold weather gear, and they survived the last ice age just fine before they were finally wiped out by sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll. It seems counterintuitive that an entire species could be driven to extinction by being overly eager to perform the procreative act, but then again bestiality is a much more serious problem when the most attractive animal in your neighborhood happens to be a woolly mammoth. Neanderthals may have been suicidally perverted, but they were warm. The same cannot be said for people who wear factory-produced clothing today. Synthetic fibers don't create actual warmth; they just help you contain the heat you already have. Fur does a bit better, but unless you make your animal-hide clothing yourself, you'll never experience its true benefits. It turns out that animals are much warmer when they still have a beating heart, which is why I made my last coat with a roll of duct tape and six dozen live squirrels. I suspect that Neanderthals

did the same thing, only instead of squirrels, they used woolly mammoths, and instead of duct tape, the used copious amounts of fire, which might explain why the typical Neanderthal's lifespan shortened to approximately sixty seconds after he put on his first pair of pants. By imitating these primitive hominids and wearing a coat made from live animals, I suffer hundreds of squirrel bites a day, but my average body temperature is twenty degrees above normal. About two degrees of that is transfer from the squirrels' body heat, and the rest comes from the fever caused by my multiple rabies infections.

After successfully wearing a squirrel coat, it's possible that the highly-infected but very warm brain of its wearer will have a few lapses in judgment, which is why he or she should put extra effort into avoiding the final great mistake of winter: invading Russia. There will come a point on some dark, lonely December night when you and a few buddies will be sitting around, tired, bored, and completely wasted on horseradish and stolen Viagra. One of your friends will suggest that you call it a night, but you'll decline since you're too tired to go home. Another friend will suggest that you have those squirrel bites looked at by a licensed health professional, but again you'll decline because you already had them examined by two unlicensed health professionals and some freshman girl who thought your gaping wounds made you look cool. That's when your third friend will speak up: "Hey guys, let's invade Russia in search of riches and women for the glory of the motherland." There's only one problem with this cunning plan: there are no riches to be found in Russia, and the closest thing that country has to a woman is a man who can't grow a beard. Furthermore, conquering the former U.S.S.R. when it's fifty below zero isn't the half-hour-long activity it sounds like. The French couldn't do it, the Germans couldn't do it, and you and three buddies in a Chevy Tahoe sure as hell can't do it – unless you do some strength training first. If *Rocky IV* has taught us anything, it's that even Russia's best steroid-enhanced boxers crumble in the face of some guy who did a few pull-ups in an old barn. If you must



Winter wonderlands offer a host of new experiences for those willing to taste adventure. Just ask the Donner Party. (Photo courtesy of <http://blog.jeffdoolittle.com/archives/images/12260334.jpg>)

invade Russia, be sure to do a few strength exercises and some light stretching first.

Beyond the potential wintertime mistakes listed here, there is nothing else you could possibly do wrong in December, January, and February. So if you find yourself wondering if it's wise to ride a sled being pulled behind a speeding car or to use your job as a mall Santa to sell cocaine to five-year-olds, the answer to both is a resounding "yes." God might not approve, but he's going to be blown up in a few months anyway so no one cares what he thinks.

King of Queens Still Reigns Supreme



(<http://www.image.cbs.com/>)

By Roger "Jelly" Spittler, Staff Writer

Since entering the television scene in 1998, few comedies have had the success of *The King of Queens*. Entering into its ninth season, the show still begins with an hour on CBS's Wednesday nights, starting at 7 p.m. CST.

King of Queens is based on the comedy of Doug (Kevin James) and Carrie (Leah Remini) Heffernan, a couple living together in Queens. Doug is a rather overweight delivery man, wearing the very recognizable UPS outfit (though in the show the delivery service is a spin-off of UPS). His wife, Carrie, works as a legal secretary and always has a smart comment on hand. Carrie's father, Arthur (Jerry Stiller), lives in the couple's basement. This show is based on their daily lives and deals with subjects like marriage, work, stress, money, and every other stereotypical sitcom situation.

The whole show runs on the comedy, usually physical in nature, of Kevin James. It is what makes the whole show worthwhile, as his antics are quite hilarious to watch. They include adopting a little brother in the Big Brother program, trying to lose weight, and making his wife show signs of jealousy with a new intern (who he ends up scaring half to death). Jerry Stiller is just an oddball character, showing up at opportune times to provide a different kind of comedy and humor that is altogether refreshing. This combo is the reason for the comedy's success and high ratings.

Leah Remini's character, Carrie, on the other hand, is just annoying. She is the typical nagging wife, always putting down Doug's great ideas – or at least they seem great to me.

Remini is annoying because she wears too much makeup, has an orange tan, and wears expensive clothing, causing me to cringe when she appears. This is the complete opposite of the way I feel when I listen to her occasionally enjoyable dialogue.

Doug only seems to reach for the simple things in life: food, sporting events on his massive television (forced into the garage by the moving in of Arthur), and his wife. These are very simple desires, something to which a lot of people can relate, myself included. What's better than sitting down with a nice big sandwich, some chips, and a pop, while reclining and watching the King of Queens? I cannot think of a more enjoyable act.

Kiss the Rings: Pumas 2006 Great Lakes Football Conference Champs!

By Andrew Costello,
Sports Editor

It's time to kiss the rings. For the second time in the past 12 months, another championship trophy can be added to that wood and glass case outside the Alumni FieldHouse.

The Saint Joseph's College Football team has completed what has been a tremendous year for Puma Athletics. On Saturday, November 11, the Pumas rallied with two touchdowns in the final quarter to defeat the Dragons of Tiffin University and capture the Great Lakes Football Conference championship in the conference's first full season. By defeating Tiffin, SJC finished atop the GLFC standings at 4-1 and had an overall record of 8-3. The Pumas 22 wins over the past three seasons has tied a mark set by the 1996-98 squad.

After falling behind 23-10 at the end of the third quarter, the Pumas rallied on two fourth-quarter touchdowns from senior wide receiver Victor Torres. Although a second-stringer for most of the season, "Chili" Torres made himself the talk of the weekend by grabbing the two



Defensive Back Deqwan Young (5) seals the deal with a late game interception. (Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland).



Corrie Gregory (7), Lonnie Hurst (1), Cory Sanders (3), and Lance Burns (4) help conduct the band during a noisy celebration. (Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland).

most important touchdowns of his entire career. Junior quarterback Anthony also proved his case for All-American honors by completing 35 of his passes for a career-high 376 yards and three touchdowns. While doing so, Lindsey single-season records for yards (2,863) and touchdowns (27). One of Lindsey's main targets throughout the entire season, wide receiver Dan Paulsen also established single-game records for receptions (14) and receiving yards (237). Paulsen's 1,121 receiving yards and 82 receptions on the year are the most by an Puma wide-out. On the defensive side of the ball, linebacker Rob Perricone set the tempo by recording 18 tackles (a career-best), while strong safety Corrie Gregory (13 tackles) and Fred Blanton (9 tackles) had significant contributions. Besides Ethan Tyler's interception run of 38 yards, the biggest play for the defense occurred in the game's final minutes. Junior defensive back Deqwan Young vanquished any Dragon hopes by nabbing his second interception of the game in the final minutes of the

contest, assuring the Pumas of the title.

The win and conference title were not the only reasons to be emotional that cold day in November. 17 seasons trotted across the field in what turned out to be an emotional senior day celebration. The seniors will be missed during next year's campaign, as the SJC defense and offensive lines were anchored with senior leadership.

"We had a lot of great senior leadership which pushed us to the level we needed to play at," said quarterback Anthony Lindsey. "We will miss a lot of the seniors that are leaving. There are some pretty important spots that we need to fill on both sides of the ball. Its going to be exciting to see who will step up and play next year."

Senior linebacker Ethan Tyler is pleased with his career and tenure as a Puma, and shares Lindsey's sentiments.

"The defense had a good year. Everyone contributed and that is the main reason why we are conference champs. The senior class has been through a lot since

freshman year. From playing under different coaches and doing about 1,000 down ups a day," said the 2006 GLFC Defensive MVP. "I am happy to be apart of this family."

Besides securing a Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship in basketball this past March, SJC is beginning to make a name for itself in Division II athletics. Just



Quarterback Anthony Lindsey (11) sets up the play. (Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland).

ask senior Defensive Back Cory Sanders, a consistent starter since he was a freshman.

"Our program has come a long way since I was a freshman. That year (2003), we finished 2-9, and the past three years we have been playing hard against the tough teams in our region and beating the teams we should, soundly," says the strong safety. "When you play teams like Grand Valley, Indianapolis, and Tiffin, who are ranked nationally and regionally, you have to stay focused. I think this year we proved that we are becoming a great football program."

All football statistics courtesy of Clark Teuscher.



Cory Sanders (3), LaVarr Brown (2), Julius Taylor (88), and Ethan Tyler (52) are all seniors.

2006 All-GLFC PUMAS

First Team

Greg Ford, Running Back
Zach Casewell, Offensive Line
Dan Paulseu, Wide Receiver
Etban Tyler, Linebacker
Fred Blanton, Linebacker
Cory Sanders, Defensive Back
Deqwan Young, Defensive Back

Second Team

Anthony Lindsey, Quarterback
Terrence Freeman, Running Back
Lonnie Hurst, Wide Receiver
Julius Taylor, Tight End
Addison Bowman, Offensive Line
LaVarr Brown, Defensive Line
Durrell Kelly, Defensive Line
Rob Perricone, Linebacker
Corrie Gregory, Defensive Back

Honorable Mention

Mitch Dean, Offensive Line
Lee Shaver, Offensive Line
Sir William McKenzie, Defensive Line
Lance Burns, Defensive Back
Micheadkjfdkjfdkjfdkjfdkdf
Michael LaFata, Defensive Back



The winner of the GLFC in years to come might be guaranteed an NCAA playoff berth. (<http://tuintranet.tiffin.edu/GLFC/>)

Women's Basketball Looks To Improve

By Tyler Stouder, Staff Writer

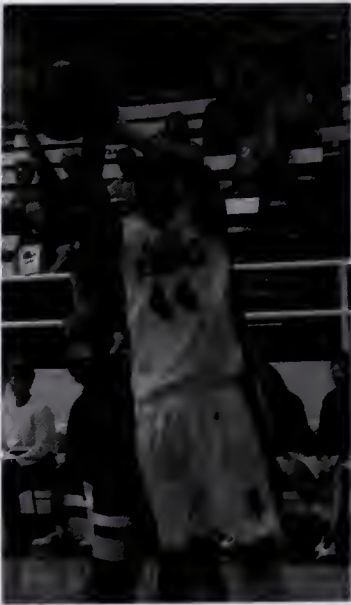
It is that time of year again. Yes, the time when you walk into the fieldhouse and you hear the screeching of shoes on the floor. It is basketball season here at SJC, and the women's team has prepared very hard, for what they hope will be a successful season. However, currently the Pumas are 0-5 and 0-1 in conference. But the Pumas are not fazed. Junior Julia LeBlanc commented on this, "It's kind of hard losing the first games of the season, but I am confident in the team, and I know we will finish strong." The Lady Pumas are coached by Amy Siegel, who is in her second season as head coach. Last year, Coach Siegel guided the Pumas to a 14-13 record, which was a 10-game improvement over the previous year's campaign and the program's first winning season



Michelle Bova (25), Julia LaBlanc (32), Megan Haag (22), and Taleah Sanford (10) with Coach Siegel.

since 1998-99. So it is easy to imagine when the Pumas are excited to start off another year. The Pumas are returning three of their starters from last years season, Senior Michelle Bova, and Juniors Allison Hughes and Patience Meyer. Other Pumas with solid playing experience are senior Ashley Fetgetter, LeBlanc

and sophomore Jordan Hess, who all looked to contribute just like last year. The Pumas also carry an excellent recruiting class as well as an impressive group of younger classmen. The Pumas next game is December 2 at 1 p.m. as the Pumas travel to the University of Missouri-Saint Louis.



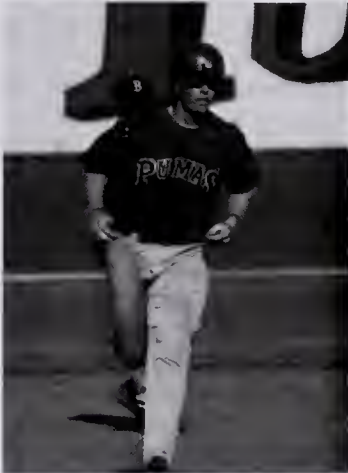
Patience Meyer (44) gets a tough rebound. (Photo by Tim McFarland)

SJC Alumnus Signs Frontier League Contract

By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director

Former Saint Joseph's College baseball standout Mike Victor has signed a professional contract to play for the Southern Illinois Miners of the independent Frontier League. The Miners, based in Marion, Ill., are preparing for their first season of operation in the Frontier League, which now consists of 12 teams throughout Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. Victor concluded his playing career at SJC this past spring. He was a four-year starter and a First Team All-Great Lakes Valley Conference and All-North Central Region selection in 2005 and 2006. He batted .300 with 134 runs batted in during his tenure with the Pumas, departing as SJC's career leader in doubles (62), at-bats (676), games played (203), and games started (198).

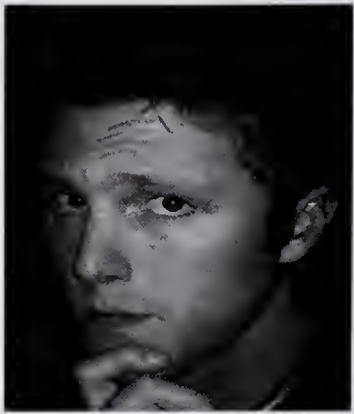
The Frontier League's season begins in late May and runs through September. More information on the Miners and the Frontier League can be found at www.FrontierLeague.com.



Mike Victor started 200 games while playing for the Pumas. (Photo by Sports Information)

Chase's BCS Predictions

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer



Tostitos Fiesta Bowl (Jan. 1): Boise State (12-0) vs. Oklahoma (11-2)

This match-up features a small conference school from the WAC versus an annual college football power from the Big 12. This is another case of a team going undefeated yet having no shot of being in the BCS Championship game due to its lack of schedule. While Boise State has been impressive in winning every game on its schedule this year, it is hard to overlook the fact that they have yet to even play a ranked team all season. Oklahoma, on the other hand, has two losses to the hands of #7 Texas and #18 Oregon. They also boast victories over #23 Missouri, #21 Texas A&M, and #19 Nebraska. Even though Oklahoma will probably be without its best player, Adrian Peterson, I still like them in this match-up because they just have way too much talent for a WAC team like Boise State. *SCORE: Oklahoma 34 Boise State 21*

FedEd Orange Bowl (Jan. 2): Louisville (11-1) vs. Wake Forest (11-2)

This game features the top team in the ACC versus the top team in the Big East. Louisville as expected had another successful season, while Wake Forest has been a huge surprise. Wake Forest features a big time defense

that has kept them in ballgames all season, while Louisville is led by an offensive attack that has yet to be stopped all season. Even in their one loss to #15 Rutgers, Louisville scored 25 points, its second lowest output of the season. They also feature victories over #17 Miami and #3 West Virginia. Wake Forest has two blemishes on its record, both at the hands of ranked teams. #15 Clemson and #19 Virginia Tech both got the best of the Demon Deacons but #16 Boston College and #23 Georgia Tech did not. This game is really a toss up, and in my mind one of the harder to pick. I guess I will go out on a limb in this one and pick Wake Forest because in a way they remind me of Rutgers in that they win with defense, and defense wins championships (or big bowl games in this case.) *SCORE: Wake Forest 21 Louisville 17*

Allstate Sugar Bowl (Jan. 3): Notre Dame (10-2) vs. LSU (10-2)

This game features two teams who arrived at this game in very different ways. LSU features wins over #8 Tennessee and #5 Arkansas within the last month of the season while Notre Dame comes in still licking its wounds after a 20 point loss to then #2 USC. LSU has two losses on the season, both coming to ranked opponents, losing to #5 Florida and #3 Auburn. Notre Dames other loss on the season came to #11 Michigan. Notre Dame's has only beat one ranked opponent all season beating #19 Penn State. Because of Notre Dame inability to win the big game this season, and in seasons past, I give the advantage to LSU. *SCORE: LSU 31 Notre Dame 24*

Rose Bowl (Jan. 1st): USC (10-2) vs. Michigan (11-1)

USC's loss to UCLA sets up arguably the most intriguing match-up of the bowl season. While some may argue Michigan should have been playing Ohio State for the National Championship, few will argue

this will be a heavyweight fight that should go back and forth until the final whistle sounds. Michigan's one loss came to the hands of Ohio State, while USC has lost to two unranked opponents in Oregon State and UCLA. USC has some impressive victories in beating #19 Nebraska, #21 Oregon, #17 California, and #6 Notre Dame. Michigan boasts a win over #2 Notre Dame, in a game that they absolutely dismantled the Irish on the road. In my opinion this is the best game of the bowls and will be the most worth watching if you can only view one. It might come down to who has the ball last. *SCORE: Michigan 38 USC 34*

Tostitos BCS National Championship (Jan. 8): Ohio State (12-0) vs. Florida (12-1)

Ohio State without a doubt has been the best team in college football all season. Ranked #1 since day one, Ohio State has had very few close calls in its run through its schedule beating #2 Texas, #24 Penn State, #13 Iowa, and #2 Michigan. Florida has survived a couple close calls this season only losing to #11 Auburn. They have beaten #13 Tennessee, #9 LSU, and #8 Arkansas as well as playing the hardest schedule in college football. While I would have preferred to see Ohio State and Michigan once again, this game could turn out to be a classic. Something inside me just does not think it will however. *SCORE: Ohio State 35 Florida 20*



Unlike the past few years, Fox will be hosting the Bowl Championship Series. This year's national title game sees Ohio State versus Florida. (<http://www.bcsfootball.org/bcsfootball/>)

Puma Soccer Profile: Jenna Mullins

By Andrew Costello, Sports Editor



Jenna Mullins is a senior defender on the Women's Soccer team. She was a part of a team that was rich in senior leadership. (Photo by Sports Information)

always so many people telling me "no." All my life I've had people telling me I wasn't good enough or that I didn't have enough drive. But here I am about to graduate from college with the best memories that anyone could ever hope for.

3. Finish the sentence: "The meaning of life is...."

The meaning of life is finding a way to laugh till it hurts every single day.

4. How long have you been playing soccer?

Since I was four years old.

5. Favorite pastime?

Playing indoor soccer as much as I possibly could in high school.

6. Favorite book?

The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen.

7. Any guilty pleasures (that you wouldn't mind admitting)?

Sitting on the futon watching seasons of *House* with my roommates all day long.

8. Who is your role model?

My mom. She is the strongest woman I know.

When will the Cubs win the World Series?

How old is Bob Knight?

Will the Colts win the Super Bowl?

Think you know Sports? Write for the Observer.

Send articles to ack5427@saintjoe.edu

Men's Basketball Off To A Good Start

By Mike Koscielnny, Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College Men's basketball team is returning from an outstanding 31-3 season and a run to the Division II Great Lakes Regional Semifinal. The men are off to a great start as they are 3-1, 1-0 in conference play as the double header at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Originally scheduled for Saturday December 2, the game was postponed due to the winter storms that blew through most of the Great Plains. UMSL's basketball facility was left without power; the game's rescheduled date is to be determined.

The SJC Men's basketball team, under the leadership of Coach Richard Davis, only lost two games last year, both in the month of January, and hope to do just as well this year.

"Basically my goal for this season is to continue the success set forth for last year's team," senior guard and Accounting major Jonathan Pittman said.

"My goals are to repeat as regular season conference champs as well as conference tournament champs," said senior guard and Business Administration Accounting major Greg Boo. "Also, we should Make it back to the NCAA

tournament and get to the Elite Eight."

By the aspirations of the team, this season promises to be an exciting one. This excitement translates into quite an atmosphere at home games. The home basketball games, played in the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse, are important to the team. The Pumas went 15-1 at home last season.

"Playing at home is always important; you're always supposed to protect your home. It's even more special now because we have such a long win streak going on at home right now," Pittman said.

Large crowds affect the game for the better.

"Everyone wants to play in front of a large crowd," Boo said. "You feel different when you are playing in front of 5 people or 5,000 people, but I do feel it affects the players in the game."

The Men's next home game is Thursday December 7. They are

Jonathan Pittman (24), Noah Douglas (45), Devin Thomas (30), and Ron Coleman (33) look to lead the Pumas back to the NCAA tournament. (Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland)



hosting the University of Southern Indiana. When asked what key games he would be looking forward to this season, Boo said, "USI is always a big game for us." Also, USI gave the Men's team one of their only two losses during the regular season last year. Tip-off for the game is at 7:30 p.m. Everyone should come out and support the men so they can keep the winning streak alive.

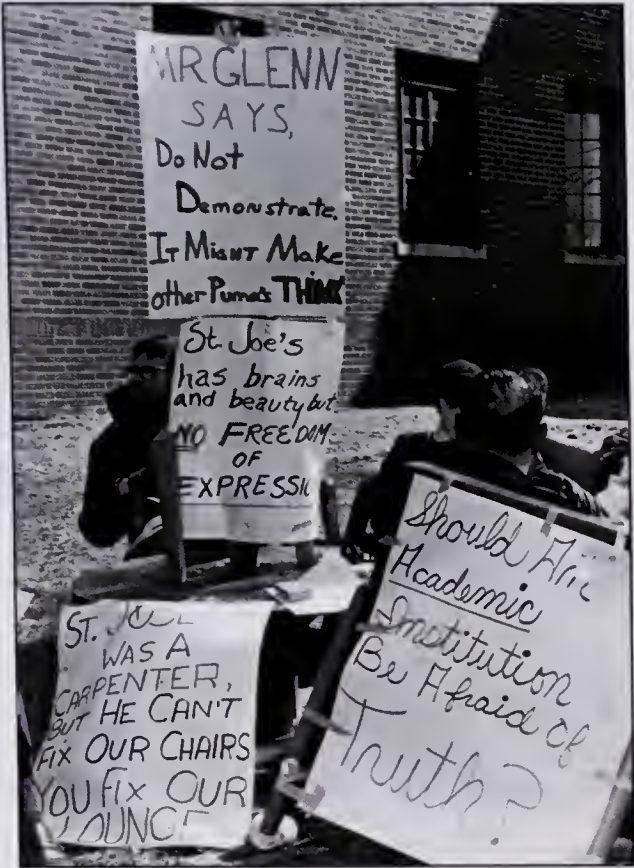
Looking Back, Pressing Forward

Popular Dissent with Danny Waclaw

This photo, found in the annals of the SJC yearbook collection in the library, is probably a bit hard to swallow for us Pumas. The only yelling we're used to is the cacophony of bursts that occasionally pummel the IM field on a given weekend. This is a different kind of yelling, though—the kind that comes through silence.

It's difficult to say that we're guilty of complete apathy; if that were true, then we could probably do something about it. More plausible is the thought that maybe we're quiet because we don't know what to be loud about. These students had a multitude of things to say: FIX OUR LOUNGE! FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION! SHOULD AN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION BE AFRAID OF THE TRUTH?

But what would we say, given the chance? Complaints fly left and right, but perhaps some of us think of this place, of the country we live in, or of our generation as a lost cause. There's nothing to say, there's nothing to do. This is our mindset.



SJC student protestors ask us, What do you care about?

And maybe we immerse ourselves in this general self-afflicted malaise for good reason. Political correctness makes us hide in fear from expressing our opinions openly; sometimes we probably even keep quiet to keep from harming ourselves in

some way or another through being "found out."

This is the end of the road. We can't really go any further without some positive change in our thinking. Maybe we won't make the right changes, but at least we'll have tried, and that is the first step to immortality.

On the Town!

High School Musical Live

· Who? The cast of Disney's home-grown musical about high school performs songs from the hit made-for-TV movie live!

· When? 7 PM on Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

· Where? Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, IN.

· Tickets are available through ticketmaster.com.

Garrison Keillor

· Who? The famed wit talks about literature and life in a special event at IU.

· When? 8 PM on Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

· Where? The Indiana University Auditorium in Bloomington, IN.

· Tickets are available through ticketmaster.com.

A Christmas Carol

· What? Join in on an Indianapolis tradition and see a modern take on Dickens' classic tale.

· When? Now through December 24, 2006.

· Where? The Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indy.

· Check out irtlive.com for more details.

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to dwj5079@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

I don't think I'll ever be able to look at my grandmother's puckering lips in the same way again.

Look at me! I'm flirting with you and you missed my class today!

Person 1: Have you been to Dett-root? You know this place?

Person 2: Spell it.

Person 1: D-e-t-r-o-i-t.

Nothing says loving like a pair of high-top Keds!

Look at that: another reason that some pornography should be made illegal.

Nota Bene

"Every New Year is the direct descendant, isn't it, of a long line of proven criminals?" ~Ogden Nash~

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Dec 8 - Dec 14
(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

The Nativity Story

Fri: 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 (PG)
Sat: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
Sun: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:10

Happy Feet

Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (PG)
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

Deja Vu

Fri: 4:30, 6:50, 9:10 (PG-13)
Sat: 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
Sun: 4:30, 6:50
Mon-Th: 4:30, 6:50

Deck the Halls

Fri: 5:20, 7:20, 9:20 (PG)
Sat: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
Sun: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:20

Casino Royale

Fri: 4:10, 6:40, 9:10 (PG-13)
Sat: 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
Sun: 4:10, 6:40
Mon-Th: 4:10, 6:40

Coming Soon...

on December 15

Eragon Pursuit of Happiness
Charlotte's Web

Don't forget... it's Pearl Harbor Day!

2,390 Americans were killed during the attack, the average age of whom was 23.

Over half of those killed were aboard the USS Arizona.

The total time of the attacks was a little over two hours.

The Japanese code word "tora" means "tiger."

Courtesy of http://www.privatehenrykalinowski.org/html/facts_trivia.html

Karma and the Cosmos

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

You are getting pumped for the holidays! Stop making your Christmas list and start focusing on what you are going to give to others. Remember, it is the season of giving, not just what Santa is giving you.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

It is time to get a head start on your New Year's resolution. If you want to shed some extra turkey from your tummy, hit the gym. And if you want to do something for others, try lending a hand now. It is never too soon to begin a good thing!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)

Can you hear that little voice in your head talking to you? It is there for a reason, so stop ignoring it. If you continue being stubborn, you will only end up hurting yourself.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)

Hey, Grumpy Gus, take a chill pill and relax! No one is out to get you, and your professors really do not hate you, as you may think. Try something new, like smiling or even laughing. Your soul will thank you.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

What are you trying to prove? This new you is not working, and you definitely are not fooling anyone. Your fellow pumas and your family miss the old you. So take off the mask and get comfy in you real skin.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)

Try washing your hands after you blow your nose. Just because you are sick does not mean all of your friends want to share your nasty cough. Also, try spraying some Lysol; it helps kill the germs—meaning you might actually have some visitors.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Okay, smitten kitten, it is time to stop spending all of your spare time with you-know-who. Take some of your energy and apply it to your schoolwork. Snuggling with your honey is not going to help you finish your Core paper.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)

You are not on your period, so why are you being so cranky? Remember, no amount of chocolate is going to get you out of this mood. Focus on what is really bothering you and get the negative karma out of your life.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)

Yes, everyone knows how *hott* you are. How can they not with the way you have been flaunting your goods all around campus? It is time to deflate your ego and give some compliments to others for a change.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)

What died in your room, and why are you missing so many socks? Well, when is the last time you cleaned your crib? This is not like the organized you. Do some heavy duty cleaning or you might have a panic attack.

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)

Hey, Mr. or Miss Thang, it is time to drop the attitude. Lower your nose for a second and join the rest of humanity. You might even find a new love interest if you focus your energy on something other than a mirror.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Dating around is fun for you right now. But what is the point? You are just leading people on. Stop breaking hearts and find someone who actually relates to you. They are called soul mates for a reason.